

Message Text

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12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 290825Z SEP 75
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7207
INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11490

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG CH US HK
SUBJECT: PROPOSED FLUOR REFINERY COMPLEX

REF: HONG KONG 11370

1. PRC ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROJECTED REFINERY (REFTEL) PUTS FLUOR SCHEME EVEN MORE IN DOUBT. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE FLUOR'S ASSESSMENT OF THEIR CHANCES NOW, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY GAVE PRC DOZEN OR SO STUDIES IN ANSWER TO HIGHLY TECHNICAL AND DETAILED QUESTIONS POSED BY CHINESE SIDE WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY BE USEFUL TO THEM.

2. MEANWHILE, GOVERNOR MACLEHOSE HAS ORDAINED SEVERAL MONTHS OF "MASTERLY INACTIVITY" BY HKG OFFICIALS CONCERNING THIS PROJECT ON SUPPOSITION IT WOULD PROBABLY DISAPPEAR. HE HAS, HOWEVER, SUGGESTED THAT UK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DISCREETLY DISCUSS IT WITH DEPARTMENT. I DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT MOTIVATION FOR THIS POSSIBLE APPROACH MIGHT BE, BUT I THINK IT COULD REVOLVE AROUND HOW MUCH PROPOSED COMPLEX HAS BECOME A FACTOR IN US/PRC RELATIONS. I HAVE TOLD HIM THAT IT IS NOT ONE AS FAR AS I KNOW AND THAT WE OF COURSE UNDERSTAND BRITISH SENSITIVITY TO BEING LEFT OUT OF DISCUSSIONS BY TWO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ABOUT SUCH A MASSIVE SCHEME WHICH WOULD BE LOCATED ON BRITISH TERRITORY. I GATHERED THAT AT ONE TIME BRITS WERE THINKING OF TALKING TO PRC DIRECTLY ABOUT THE PROJECT OR AT LEAST TO ANGLE
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PERHAPS WITH USLO HELP FOR SOME CLUE

AS TO CHINESE INTENTIONS, BUT THIS WAS DROPPED
IN FAVOR OF "INACTIVITY." I INDICATED THAT GEORGE BUSH WAS
RECEIVING ALL MESSAGES ON THE SUBJECT, BUT SAID I PERSONALLY
AGREED WITH THEM THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO OPEN UP DISCUSSIONS
WITH PRC UNTIL WE HAD MORE INFORMATION.

3. I ALSO TOLD GOVERNOR THAT FLUOR PROJECT IS BEING
TIGHTLY HELD IN WASHINGTON AND CONTROL IS CENTERED IN
EA/PRCM. HOPE THAT ANY REPLIES GIVEN TO EMBASSY WOULD
INCLUDE GENERALIZED STATEMENT ALONG LINES SUGGESTED PARA 7,
HONG KONG 10732.
CROSS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Draft Date: 29 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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